Topic 4 Australia and World War II

The Second World War had a major impact on the generation who fought and lived through it. Australia’s relationship with Britain and the United States was fundamentally altered. In this topic, students will explore the experiences of Australians on both the war front and the home front. Internal choice offers opportunities to study issues and events of particular interest or local significance in more depth.

**Inquiry questions**

* Why was Australia involved in World War II?
* What were some of the experiences of Australians as a result of their involvement in the war?
* What was the impact of the war on the Australian home front?
* How did Australia’s relationship with Britain and the USA change during World War II?

**Outcomes**

Throughout this topic, students work towards all outcomes, with particular focus on those listed below.

A student:

5.2 assesses the impact of international events and relationships on Australia’s history

5.3 explains the changing rights and freedoms of Aboriginal peoples and other groups in Australia

5.4 sequences major historical events to show an understanding of continuity, change and causation

5.5 identifies, comprehends and evaluates historical sources

5.7 explains different contexts, perspectives and interpretations of the past.

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| **Working Historically**  Historical skills to be integrated into this topic:   * sequence major events within the relevant period of time * explain different perspectives of individuals and groups * recognise that historians may interpret events differently * use and evaluate historical sources for an historical inquiry.   ICT skills appropriate for this topic may include:   * create a formatted, multi-paged document as part of an historical inquiry.   **Suggested Site Studies include:**   * a local or national war memorial * a local site * a virtual site of a theatre of war/event in World War II * a museum study. |

| **Students learn about:** | **Students learn to:** |
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| * Australia’s involvement in WWII | * explain the reasons for Australia’s involvement in WWII |
| * identify the places where Australians fought in WWII |
| * the experiences of Australians serving in WWII, with particular emphasis on ONE of the following: * Kokoda or another New Guinea campaign * prisoners of war * a campaign in another theatre of war * Australian nurses serving in the war | * describe the experiences of Australians serving in WWII, with emphasis on the chosen study |
| * the impact of the war on Australian civilians with a particular emphasis on ONE of the following: * the bombing of Darwin * the Japanese submarine attack on Sydney * the internment of ‘enemy aliens’ * a significant local event or issue | * explain the impact of the war on Australian civilians with a particular emphasis on the chosen event or issue |
| * wartime government controls including * conscription * manpower controls * rationing * censorship | * describe the controls on civilian life imposed by the wartime government |
| * outline the arguments for and against such controls in wartime. |
| * the changing roles of Australian women in WWII | * describe the changing roles of women during WWII |
| * Australia’s changing relations with Britain and the USA during WWII | * explain how and why Australia’s relationship with Britain and the USA changed during WWII |